

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

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MATTERS OF DETAIL.

There can be no contest between people who want small farmers to come to Hawaii singly, in groups or any other way, so long as they come, and those who agree with Governor Dole in the colony idea, providing means are taken that will bring results. If colonies will come, well and good. That means more producers added to the white population and they will be welcomed. But the Advertiser has feared that if the Territory waited until farm communities began moving en masse, it would be a long time in peopling its vacant acres.

The West has been settled up in the individual way: Land was surveyed and then advertised to be opened at a given time upon such and such terms. When the time came to pre-empt there were plenty of people there to take quarter-sections. The Advertiser holds that the same methods would be efficacious here. It is by no means enamored of the Island land system as it stands. There is too much room in it for humbug. Dummy homesteaders come in to get land for graziers and Settlement Associations are formed by men who do not attempt to comply with the spirit of the law and who are merely acquiring land for speculation. Where there is one genuine Settlement like that at Wailua there are five which are not genuine. What this paper wants to see on the upland soil is the farmer who will work it. There are plenty of farmers who want to come. To get them the available land should be spread out. There is plenty of it, graziers, knockers, California boomers and confirmed pessimists to the contrary notwithstanding.

Where is it? Well, the Land Commissioner, when he went to Washington a year or two ago, carried a list that filled nine columns of newspaper space. He is now getting up a pamphlet which will tell the whole story and supplementing it are the letters of men who have made small farming pay. Much of this land should, however, be surveyed and mapped and then advertised through the railroads and steamship lines. It does not do to leave it as it is and then expect people to buy. Hawaii must adopt the general Western method of getting an agricultural population and when it does it will prosper.

Somewhere said the other day that this agitation should have begun thirty years ago. No doubt. California and the Northwest lost lots of time but they are making up for it today and that is precisely what Hawaii should do. Nothing can be gained by grieving over lost opportunities when the chance exists to make new ones.

SUCCESS TO JUSTICE.

The epidemic of crime which has started this community during the past year is largely due to the judicial policy, now happily terminated, of letting thieves, highwaymen and even murderers off on slight technicalities. A study of police returns will show that crime began to increase as soon as it was understood that it had friends at court. The enemies of society took heart when the trial judge rose to the toast of "Success to Crime" and when he said from the bench, as he let a thief go, that he himself would have stolen money at the same age. It is not an injustice to affirm that fifty per cent of local crime since then has been committed under the impression that it would not hurt much to be caught.

But things are now on a turn for the better. Judge De Bolt, an honest man, has signaled the beginning of his work by giving the criminal a short shrift. Yesterday he sent a burglar up for twelve years. Other rogues have received sentences which bore a like relation to the gravity of their offenses. It is now becoming understood that crime is not going to be lightly regarded by the Circuit Court nor turned in to a befuddled jest at a dinner table. When proven to the satisfaction of a jury it will be dealt with to the satisfaction of justice. Already crime is lessening both in kind and degree, and while it will never, under any circumstances, wholly disappear, it will be normal as long as the courts do their duty.

The experience which this community has had with unworthy judges since annexation has taught it a lesson of self-defence which it will certainly apply when one or two judicial commissions expire and there comes a chance to get new men. When the earlier appointments were made the people paid little attention to them. They had been long accustomed to honest and competent judges here and did not conceive of the judicial iniquity with which they were soon affronted. Lack of foresight on their part has been easily punished since. But events have made it possible to get two good men out of three on the bench of the First Circuit Court; and unless we make a mistake in gauging public sentiment the successor of any delinquent Judge will not be himself. The Success to Crime judiciary must go.

Scripture says the conies are a feeble folk.

THE LEGISLATURE AT HAND.

Today the second Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii will convene, this time there being a safe Republican majority in both branches. The work which confronts it is of the most important nature and the outlook is that the two months may draw to a close without the accomplishment of all that has been laid out for the session.

Of prime importance is the action upon the County bill, which has been made the subject of the most careful thought on the part of the best men of the majority party. The measure is now well understood and the members of both houses have given a week to the consideration of its provisions, and when it is taken up, which will be done as soon as organization is complete, the amendment of the bill will proceed with rapidity, and there will be developed a measure which will be coherent and will afford the best possible basis for the inauguration of the new form of control.

There is an ambition on the part of all the members for the improvement of the Territory, and the appropriation bills promise to be large, owing to the new roads and bridges, the wharves and landings which will be pushed by the island members. The questions which are to be considered outside these general provisions are principally amendments to existing laws, having for their aim the reform of the procedure in the courts and the Torrens land act. All of the bills which are to be brought before the Legislature will be closely watched by the leaders of the party and as well by the citizens, for much is expected of the first legislature controlled by the dominant party of the nation, and the hopes for good and sound laws will be fulfilled if hard work will make it possible.

The Senate has met and its caliber is known. The quality of the House is to be tested, and while some obnoxious measures are to be expected the session promises to be free from vicious legislation and to be one during which the various branches of the government will work in close harmony for the good of the Territory.

INTERESTS THAT CLASH.

Among those who are most eager to discourage small farming in Hawaii are the cattle and sheep men. They want the non-sugar producing land for themselves. The circumstance recalls the fact that, in the building up of the West, the small farmer has had more trouble with the grazier than with the Indian. Cattlemen kept the great Northwest unpeopled for thirty years. Their habit was to say to all comers that the soil would not grow anything but bunchgrass, and that there was no market for general produce and no roads to transport it. Much stress was laid on the pests. For a long time the scheme worked; but finally the settlers crowded in, dislodged the grazier from the fertile valleys and mesas, and today the region is full of prosperous small farms and good homes. At the same time the new farm country is producing more marketable beef than it did in the grazing days. It is being proved there that a thousand farmers occupying 100,000 acres of land raise more beef and mutton than a group of graziers did on the same tract. The reason why is easy to see. Where the farmer feeds special forage crops to cattle and gets good results, the grazier let his stock shift for itself on the bunchgrass and it did only fairly well.

California has had the same experience. In the early days there were no fences in the land. The graziers would not have them. Some time in the fifties a fence law was enacted, and this gave the farmer the chance which he has so well improved that California—once pronounced a desert—has become one of the great agricultural states in the Union and an immense producer of live stock as well. Everywhere the grazier had to be fought. Slowly but surely he was pushed into the corners, and while this was being done the production of beef cattle did not diminish. In 1850 there were but 872 farms in California, but by 1890 they had increased to 52,894, while the value of cattle had increased since 1880 alone no less than 70 per cent. The figures for the ten years ending in 1900 do not appear as fully in McCarthy's Statistician as we could wish, but as the value of live stock had only increased 46 per cent in the rest of the country while it was increasing 70 per cent in California, and as the process has gone steadily ahead, it may be reasonably inferred that the value of cattle in California is at least 100 per cent more than it was twenty years previously when the ranges occupied nearly all of Southern California and much of the remaining state acreage.

Judging from the experience of the West and what may be seen here, great cattle ranges, however profitable to the individual, are a detriment to the country as a whole. They occupy soil which is suitable for small farming, and do not produce as much or such good beef and mutton as farming communities would. So long as graziers hold the best tracts the land cannot settle up. It is because of this that Congress, in its wisdom, restricted the time limit of leases here and forbade the disposal of more than 1,000 acres of public land to a single individual or corporation. Congress knew what Hawaii needed and it means to shape conditions accordingly, even if it has to turn our land administration over to the Federal Government.

It is a matter of regret to Hawaii that Senator Morgan should persist in his opposition to the Panama canal. Any isthmian canal that will facilitate commerce between the two oceans is better than no canal at all, and if a fight is to come on between the friends of Panama and Nicaragua it will be many a long year before a ditch will be dug. Most people here who have given the matter thought, prefer the Nicaragua to the Panama route, but everybody agrees that a Panama canal would answer all the commercial uses which have so strongly recommended the Nicaragua project in the past. What the United States wants and needs is a short cut to the Pacific and it is not the most useful patriotism to stand in the way even if the choice of the one route over the other was not free from attendant scandals.

Southern California is about the worst place on earth for a rheumatic while Hawaii, especially Honolulu, is one of the best places. The peculiar excellence of this climate for the treatment of rheumatic complaints ought not to be forgotten by our tourist boomers.

It is plain from the action of the Hawaiian Republicans of the House in secret caucus that no white man need apply. When it comes to drawing a color line the Hawaiians use the paint brush with a dexterous hand.

Southern California will lose some millions of dollars by its devastating frosts but it will be able to keep solvent so long as it has forty or fifty thousand tourists to its credit.

Catarrh

Is a discharge from the mucous membrane of the nose, throat, stomach, bowels, etc., when kept in a state of inflammation by an impure condition of the blood and a want of tone in the system.

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Volcano Free Trip

The "Advertising Folder" contest, the winner in which is to be given a free trip to the Volcano, going one route and returning another, will close Saturday, Feb. 28, immediately after which a committee of representative business men will pass on the merits of the suggestions offered without knowing who offered them.

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